

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States;

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer affects men and women equally;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colon cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection;

WHEREAS, only 40 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage;

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 13 percent when diagnosed after it has been diagnosed at a distant stage and spread to other organs;

WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer, the death rate from this disease could be reduced;

WHEREAS, African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives are significantly less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer compared to Whites;

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim March 2016 as

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 11th day of January, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor